A Sunday School Report.

The Brethren Sabbath school was organized at the Pleasant Valley church, April 11, 1886, Albert Clark being chosen Sup't. and G. B. Southworth Ass't Sup't. From the date of organization until its adjournment, Dec. 5, 32 regular sessions were held, with a total attendance of 1966; an average attendance of 61. There have been four classes in the school, a Bible class, a class of young gentlemen and ladies, an intermediate class of boys and girls and a class of little folks. During part of the time the class of young people was divided, one teacher instructing the young ladies and another the young gentlemen. Quarterlies, lesson leaves, lesson cards and periodicals published by the Am. Baptist Pub. Society have been used. The school has been carried on with a total expense of $12.19, which amount has been more than met by the weekly collections. The true work of any Sunday school is not told, however, by a statement of the numbers in attendance nor a description of its mechanical organization. It must be measured by the interest manifested, the Christian effort put forth, the character formed, the houses which are built upon a rock through its influence. Nay, when a Sabbath school is at its highest degree of effectiveness, its work can only be measured by Him who maketh "the weight for the winds" and who "weigheth the waters by measure." Nevertheless, let no Sabbath school worker be discouraged if all the ends he aims at are not immediately attained. A close study of the difficulties to be encountered, of the material available, of the best methods of securing attention and keeping up an interesting variety, will soon help the most inexperienced officer or teacher to do more satisfactory work. Especially should we strive to lay some responsibility upon each member of the school, and it must not be forgotten, that in this, as in other undertakings, untiring energy is required for success. The Sabbath school may at least do much in the capacity of a preventive. Since our Sunday ordinary occupations are suspended, if the day is simply one of idleness and no part of it is employed in religious training, the result cannot but be most pernicious to many children. Again, some respect for the day and its ordinances, and some knowledge of the Scriptures will be obtained through this means which would not be obtained without it. Surely something can be done to counteract the effect of bad literature and evil companions upon the boys and girls, something to strengthen them against temptations, to win them from wrong.

ELLA ROGERS.

Genesis.

BY J. H. PALMER.

This is the first book of the Bible and of the Old Testament. The name "Genesis" means "the beginning," "the origination, or the creation;" One I thought that the Christian service had an outward promulgation. I would not give a cent for it if it had not. How do people know that you are a Christian? "By their fruits." Is it not outward?

God does not change. He is the same yesterday, to-day and forever, and what He willed three thousand years ago, that He wills today. The development theory of Mr. Darwin and his followers makes no allowance for any fall or degeneration of the race; its watchward is, "onward and upward"—a good motto, if the stubborn facts of history, sacred and profane, did not prove so conclusively that large portions of the human race have been constantly degenerating morally, intellectually, and physically, from the days of Noah to the present time.

Some throw away the thoughts of others to make themselves important. Joseph was a chief man in Egypt for eighty years, for he was thirty years old when he was raised to his honors and he died at an hundred and ten years old—being the shortest lived of all the patriarchs. However, when he died he had great-great-grandchildren to remember his name with respect, and what was better than all, he died in faith, believing in a joyful resurrection and a promised Messiah.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

What God Does For Boys.

God wants the boys, all kinds of boys,
To love him, serve him, do his will;
He wants those boys that make a noise,
And those who keep so very still.

God calls the boys, yes, every one,
Those that are in and out of school;
Though jumping, shouting, full of fun,
He leaves none out—that is his rule.

God loves the boys of every kind,
The rich and poor, the short and tall;
Even for wicked ones you'll find
His grace is given to one and all.

God gives the boys a tender heart;
And says, just so they all can hear,
Will you not choose the better part,
Just now, while Jesus is so near?

Christ died for boys; he knows their need
Of all his precious blood can do;
A Shepherd good, he gives them feed,
And to save them gives his life, too.—SEL.

DEAR EDITOR:—I thought I would write a few lines for the Children's Column. Though it is my first attempt. My papa takes the EVANGELIST, and I like to read the little letters very much. Papa, mamma and my oldest sister belong to the Brethren church. I go to school now and study nearly all the common branches taught in country schools. Our teacher is very good and kind. His name is F. Brubaker; he belongs to the G. B. church. Our Sabbath school is going to have a Christmas treat. The Brethren have prayer or social meeting at the church every Thursday evening. Rev. P. J. Brown preached at the Bear Creek church on the evening of the 6th of this month. We had a large audience, and on the following evening, he delivered a lecture on his California trip, and it was just splendid. We expect Rev. R. F. Mallott to carry on a revival meeting if nothing happens at the Bear Creek. We hope for a good time. For fear my first writing might weary your patience I will close.

CORA A. RAUCH.

New Lebanon, Ohio.

You write so nicely that we are glad to have you come into the band of little letter writers. You don't know how much patience we have. If all of our writers would write as plainly as you young folks do, then we would not need much patience. It is the old careless writers that try our patience.

DEAR EDITOR:—With pleasure I read the Children's Column. We have a small church-house here and meeting every two weeks. Our congregation is small but zealous and earnest. I am going to school; am in the fourth grade. Average in last quarter, 97. I will say in answer to Della Blue's question, 260 chapters; and will ask the question: What two chapters are exactly a like in the Bible. We have social or prayer meeting every Wednesday evening. Our Sabbath school has closed for this winter. Least my letter becomes too lengthy I will close.

M. LUE. MASSENA.

Linkville, Ind., Dec. 16.

You write some interesting church news; please write again in the future and write more about the church. You can do it well.

DEAR EDITOR:—It has been a long time since I wrote to the paper. I thought I would write this morning. I like to read the paper. I feel so lonesome. I told you last winter that I had two brothers and one sister. But God has called my sister home. We miss her very much. I have two dear sisters in heaven. We can call them angels. My parents belong to the Brethren church. I go to two Sunday Schools. My sister went to one. The church and Sunday School has showed us so much respect in our trouble that we feel more like tending then we did before. We thank them very much for their kindness, especially our ministers, R. Z. Replogle and Sterling. I will close for this time by asking your prayers for us. Find enclosed ten cents for the Educational Fund.

Yours truly,
JOHN W. LEHMAN.

Yes, the sister will be an angel. What a blessed hope we have. When our dear little brothers and sisters pass away, we know they go to Jesus who will be to them a father and mother most dear.

DEAR EDITOR:—This is my second attempt to write for the EVANGELIST. I will be 12 years old the 17th of Jan. I go to school. I study Reading, Spelling, Arithmetic, Geography, Physiology, and Writing. My teacher's name is Miss Sadie Beneman. We have a warm road to go to school. We go through the timber and cross the Miller's Creek. I like to go to school. Tomorrow is Christmas. I expect to stay at home Christmas. I was awful glad to hear from my cousin, Mary Stutsman who lives in Pennsylvania. I think if all of my cousins that live in Pennsylvania would write the paper would be filled with Children's letters. I will close by asking a question: Where is the word silver first found in the Bible..

Yours truly,
SADIE A. HARRISON.

Washburn, Iowa., Dec. 24, 1886.

You live a long ways from Pennsylvania, but through the great improvements in printing and other things, you and your cousins can come together in the same paper in your writing. Hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

DEAR EDITOR:—This is my first letter for your paper. But I sometimes write letters to my little friends. I have already bought five books for Christmas. I have got a candy heart and a candy peach. I have had a hobby horse ever since I was four years old. I am ten years old now. I stayed with Frank Yoder last night and am writing this at his father's house. I live in town and I am going to school. I must close.

Yours truly,
ALBERT MAUST.

I hope you and Frank will have a good time together. Frankie used to be here at Ashland and would often come into the EVANGELIST office.

DEAR EDITOR:—I have never written a letter before so I thought as my schoolmates, Ella and Jennie Arnold, had wrote, I would try. My papa has taken your paper two years. I have one sister and one brother. I had a sweet little brother, but he died this summer. I miss him so much and am so lonely since he is gone. I go to school and study, Arithmetic, Writing, Grammar, Reading, Spelling and Language. I will close for this time.

Good by,
RUBY L. HILBERT.

Montana, Kan., Dec. 13, 1886.

We are happy to welcome you among our band of writers, and hope you will favor us occasionally. We are pleased to hear that you take our paper, and wish that it will prove valuable.

DEAR EDITOR:—I will try and write you a letter. We moved to this place last week from Lockwood, Missouri. We live on a farm near Falls City, Nebraska. Pa is going to preach for the Brethren Church here. Pa and my three sisters and I moved here on the cars One of my brothers came with the car that our goods and stock came in. Two of my brothers are coming in two wagons, they were near Lawrence, Kan., when we last heard from them, which was two days ago. I like this place very well. I have become acquainted with a boy named Albert Maust, and I guess I will get acquainted with more. I want to go to school tomorrow.

Yours truly,
FRANK YODER.

Falls City, Neb., Dec. 11, 1886.

Well, Frankie, you can write very well. When you have time, write about your new home and how you like it there.

DEAR EDITOR:—As it has been a long time since I have written last, I thought I would try again. We have meeting at the Hickory Grove church every two weeks at ten o'clock. And in the evening at the United Brethren church, which is one mile from our house. We attend meeting at both places. J. H. Palmer is our minister he is a good speaker; he and his wife live at grandpa's this winter. Pa and Mr. Dustin have gone down to Kunkle this forenoon. We have not got any school now, the teacher throwed up the school. It will commence Monday. We don't know who will be our teacher yet. My studies are Reading, Writing, Spelling, Geography, Arithmetic and Grammar. I will close by asking a question. How old was Adam when he died?

Yours truly,
IDA A. YAGEL.

Deer Lick, O., Dec. 15, 1886.

It must keep you busy to get along with so many studies, still we hope you will find time to write again soon.